

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who needs to acquire a Department of Fish and Game trapping license?

Any person who traps fur-bearing or nongame mammals as a service for profit (e.g. pest control for hire) is required to obtain a Department of Fish and Game (DFG) trapping license. Any person who sells the raw furs of these mammals is also required to obtain this license.

2. Are Department of Pesticide Regulation licensees exempt from this rule?

Generally, yes. The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) licensees are exempt from DFG's trapping license requirement when trapping mice, rats, voles, moles, or gophers. For all other fur-bearing or nongame wildlife mammals, DPR licensees that perform pest control for hire are required to obtain a DFG trapping license.

3. I am a business owner with a Department of Pesticide Regulation Pest Control Business License or Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License. Am I required to obtain a trapping license, even though I do not personally trap the nonexempt mammals?

No. Unless you (as the owner) sell the raw furs of these nonexempt mammals, you do not need to obtain a DFG trapping license. However, if your employees trap any nonexempt mammals, then they must each obtain a DFG trapping license. DFG only issues trapping licenses to individuals, not to business entities.

4. I am a licensed Agricultural Pest Control Adviser. Would I need to obtain a Department of Fish and Game trapping license for writing recommendations to trap nonexempt fur-bearing or nongame wildlife mammals, such as ground squirrels?

No. You are only required to obtain a DFG trapping license if you are personally trapping the nonexempt mammals as a service for profit.

5. I see "voles" listed as part of the mammals that I am allowed to trap without a Department of Fish and Game trapping license. What is a vole?

Six species of voles of the genus *Microtus* occur in California. They are collectively called meadow mice or voles. Voles damage a wide variety of plants by feeding and gnawing on trunks, roots, stems, leaves, and seeds. They are common in hay fields, irrigated pastures, and some row crops. They also invade gardens, orchards, and landscaped areas.

6. What is a fur-bearing mammal as opposed to a nongame mammal?

The Fish and Game Code section 4000 defines fur-bearing mammals as "pine marten, fisher, wolverine, mink, river otter, gray fox, cross fox, silver fox, red fox, kit fox, raccoon, beaver, badger, and muskrat." The Fish and Game Code 4150 defines nongame mammals as "all mammals occurring naturally in California which are not game mammals, fully protected mammals, or fur-bearing mammals"

- 7. *I am a Department of Pesticide Regulation Qualified Applicator Licensee or Qualified Applicator Certificate Holder (either employed or unemployed by a licensed pest control business). I am discovering that there are many laws and regulations associated with trapping, and various methods of trapping. Do I need to know all of them, even though I am not a professional “trapper”?***

Yes. The purpose of this license is to test your knowledge and competency in the trapping of mammals, and to ensure that you have learned all the trapping laws and regulations. General trapping information, including a section on trapping laws and regulations, can be found on DFG’s Web site at <<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/specialpermits/trapguide.html>>.

- 8. *Am I allowed to sell the fur-bearing or nongame mammals that I trap as a service for profit?***

No. If you are hired to trap fur-bearing or nongame wildlife mammals, then you are not allowed to sell the raw fur of the mammals that you trap. You may either sell the raw furs of mammals, or provide trapping services for profit (e.g. pest control for hire), but not both. Either activity requires a DFG trapping license.